



Jack Anderson *Post 6-27-71*

The Pentagon's Fulbright File

WHEN SEN. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) began attacking the Pentagon in December, 1969, about its spendthrift propaganda program on Vietnam, the Defense Department responded by setting up a special file on the senator.

A year later, Fulbright explicitly asked Defense Secretary Melvin Laird whether the Pentagon "now maintains or has ever maintained a file containing information about me or my activities."

Two months after Fulbright questioned the Pentagon, Laird's general counsel, Fred Buzhardt, replied that the Pentagon had no "Investigative file" on Fulbright, but did keep public biographical data on members of Congress.

But Buzhardt did not tell Fulbright that files kept in the office of Assistant Defense Secretary Roger Kelley zeroed in on Fulbright, not on all members of Congress.

Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is an acid critic of the Vietnam war and of the Pentagon's efforts to sell the war to the American people.

Memos from Kelley's files, meant only for the eyes of the top brass, but now in our possession, show that Fulbright came under special Pentagon scrutiny on Dec. 8, 1969. His file was under the care of Cdr. George Marakas, a trusted officer in the Office of Information, Armed Forces.

Marakas informed his superiors on Dec. 8 that "a file is being established on Sen. Fulbright's speeches on the Senate floor concerning DOD (Department of Defense) and the individual Services Public Relations programs."

On Dec. 10, another confidential memo was sent to Col. Earl Browning, deputy to John Broger, the Pentagon's information czar under Kelley, advising that the file on Fulbright had become active.

The memos were routinely sent to Broger who, it appears, authorized the Fulbright file to be continued

and even expanded. On Dec. 17, Browning was told jubilantly by his Fulbright specialists that one of them had: "Assembled speeches in the Senate by Sen. Fulbright concerning Army, Navy, Air Force and Department of Defense Public Information programs.

"He also obtained a copy of Bill (S. 3217) introduced by Sen. Fulbright requiring the Secretary of Defense to submit regular reports to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate" on Pentagon information releases.

The Fulbright specialist did not advise his superiors that the material he had so meticulously gathered is public information available to anyone who cares to read the Congressional Record.

The file remained active during Fulbright's running battle with the Pentagon over its ballyhooing of the Vietnam war. But we could find no report on whether Kelley and his snoops built it into a more personal file similar to those the Pentagon has prepared on many other public figures. The Pentagon, however, insisted that only materials from the public record were in the file, the last dated June 1970.

CIA Bootle

THIS SPRING we went to the Florida Keys on a treasure hunt for buried CIA funds. Former Army Capt. Brad Ayres, a dashing pilot and ex-CIA training specialist, took us to sites where he had trained Cuban exiles in the '60s for sorties against Cuba.

Ayres had heard rumors of three caches containing a total of \$250,000 which were to be turned over to an assassin of Fidel Castro. The would-be assassin failed in his

mission.

At one site, deep in thickets, we found the ground dug up. The "cache" was gone, but not far off we discovered \$120 in tattered \$20 bills, some printed as late as 1968. We turned the bills over to Treasury Secretary John Connally for the CIA if the super-secret agency were willing to claim them.

Last week, Treasury returned the six bills with a guarded registered letter that said nothing about the CIA. "There is no way Treasury can verify present, past or future ownership of this particular currency," Treasury said.

Oklahoma Combat

A BITTER primary battle is already shaping up between two Oklahoma Democrats, Sen. Fred Harris and Rep. Ed Edmondson, for Harris' Senate seat.

Both men are solid Capitol Hill achievers, Edmondson somewhat more conservative than Harris. They differ sharply on the Vietnam war, in which two of Edmondson's sons served. Harris has taken Edmondson's all-but-announced candidacy as a personal affront. Given the men's fiery natures when aroused, the Oklahoma Democratic Party may well be a shambles by the time the Aug. 22, 1972, primary is over.

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